

Arlington Shared Streets Pilot Update

Arlington, MA
June 1, 2020

Goals

- Prioritize safety
- Alleviate crowding
- Evaluate impacts



Demonstration Project

- Demonstrate / test proof of concept
- Installed for 1 week 5/20-5/27
- Overall public supported pilot
- 118 nominations for other streets





Testimonial





Timeline

Task		Project Timeline: Week of					
		4/27/2020	5/4/2020	5/11/2020	5/18/2020	5/25/2020	6/1/2020
1	Project Initiation	ND initial outreach to town	Desktop analysis to select pilot location	Met with Town leadership			
2	Design		Inventory and order needed materials				
3	Public Outreach	Met / contacted local resident leaders (EALS) for feedback	Email notifications to local groups	Flyered neighborhood about pilot	Emails with street stewards; Nominate street survey live	Email notifications + flyered neighborhood about post-pilot survey	
4	Implementation				Approved at Selectboard mtg, DPW dropped materials at site + ND installed 5/20.	DPW / ND removed materials 5/27	
5	Evaluation			APD collected speed, volume data; hand counts of active transportation	Visited site 2x for hand counts and observations	APD collected speed, volume data; hand counts of active transportation Met leadership 5/29	
6	Next Steps						TBD

Outreach and Evaluation Strategies

Outreach

- Flyering neighborhood – pre and post install (400+ flyers)
- Emails
- Social Media
- Survey – nominate street
- Installed 5/20-5/27 Wed – Wed
- Video testimonial

Evaluation

- Public Comments
- APD Speed Volume before and after data
- Hand counts of active transportation (walking/biking/scooting) before and after + general observations
- Post-pilot survey live 5/27

General Observations

- No crowding or opportunities for crowding
- Lots of families and young children in street, runners/joggers as well
- Signs are confusing
- Need for midblock traffic calming – “21 mph is too fast”
- Cars at gateways (Lake @ Brooks especially) go slow
- Overall supportive and curious neighbors



Before Speeds and Volumes

ADT 378 Vehicles

	Total Vehicles	Duration
# Vehicles > 25 MPH	115 (of 727)	46 hrs
# Vehicles > 30 MPH	20 (of 727)	
% Vehicles > 25 MPH	16%	
% Vehicles > 30 MPH	3%	

	Before		
Speeds (MPH)	EB	WB	Average
50th Percentile	18	20	19
85th Percentile	24	26	25
95th Percentile	28	29	29



Active Transportation Counts

	Before	During	During
Date	5/14/2020	5/24/2020	5/26/2020
Day	Thursday	Sun Memorial weekend	Tuesday
Weather	Sunny, 70 degrees	Sunny, 60 degrees	Sunny, 75 degrees
Start	2:45pm	3:26 PM	2:45 PM
End	4:15pm	4:27 PM	4:15 PM
Duration	1.5 hrs	1 hr	1.5 hrs
Total People	94	96	55
Children (<13)	15	22	12
Older Adults (>60)	8	4	2
Average people per hour	63	96	37
% On Sidewalk	64.89%	33.33%	52.73%
% In Street	35.11%	66.67%	47.27%
% Wearing Masks	90.43%	81.25%	83.64%

Public Comments Before Pilot

Summary of responses	Totals
Total Responses	50
Total in Support	44
Total Opposed	6
Comment Themes	Totals
Increase in people walking/biking - need for safe space	18
High number of kids - need shared streets	11
Wants less cars cutting through	10
Expand to other areas of Arlington	9
Interest in making program permanent	8
Need traffic calming	5
More communication sooner	5
Confusion - who can drive on / what the rules are	5
When schools in session - concerns with traffic	3
Fear of crowding	3

Post Pilot Survey

- Flyered neighborhood and survey went live Wednesday 5/27
- 72 responses as of 5/29
- 81% want it to stay on Brooks, 80% want to expand around town

Arlington Shared Streets Post-Pilot Survey



Take our survey and share feedback at
<https://tinyurl.com/shared-streets>

The one-week shared streets demonstration project on Brooks Avenue has ended and the Town has removed the temporary infrastructure to evaluate next steps.

Community support is important to shared streets initiatives. We invite you to take a short survey (5 minutes) before the next select board meeting on **June 1st**.

For more information contact
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A project of the Town of Arlington in partnership with the
Lawrence and Lillian Solomon Foundation and Neighborways Design.



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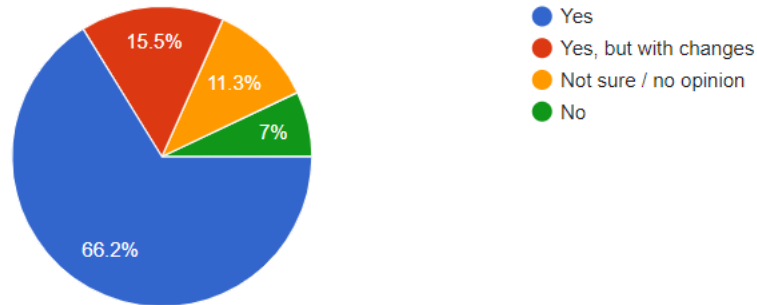
neighborwaysdesign



Post Pilot Survey

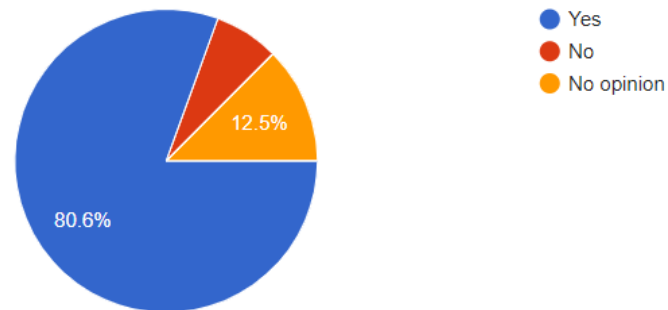
Based on your experience with the pilot program, would you support keeping Shared Streets in place on Brooks Ave and the adjacent streets beyond the week-long pilot?

71 responses



Would you like to see the Arlington Shared Streets program expanded to other locations in town?

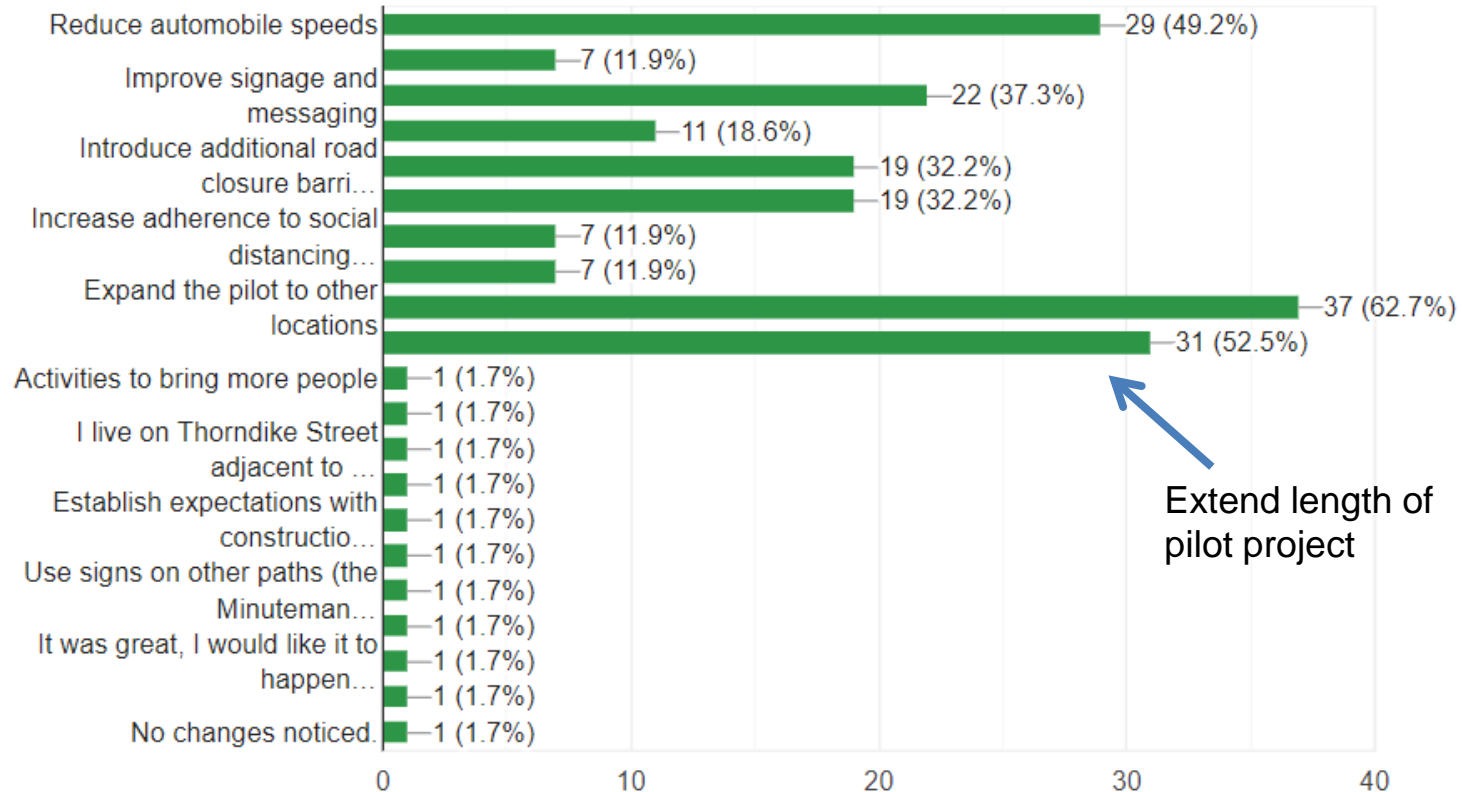
72 responses



Post Pilot Survey

What changes could the Town make to improve the pilot project? (Select all that apply.)

59 responses



Lessons Learned

- Signs are confusing – redesign for more clarity and supported by more robust public outreach campaign
- Consider traffic calming midblock
- Leverage volunteers

Considerations

- Neighborhood network connecting to business districts
- Reinstalling Brooks / follow up with neighborhood to keep momentum going
- Public outreach townwide – consider folks without internet / visual impairments
- DIY resident/volunteer led approaches

Next Steps

- Two primary directions for interventions
 - Neighborhood-based strategies
 - Localized Interventions
 - Connected Street Networks
 - Commercial Area strategies
 - Relieving Hotspots
 - Streetscape Corridors
- Approval to develop framework for implementing above strategies

Feedback / Discussion

